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U.S.D.A., National Agricultural Statistics Service

N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics

Equine Industry Survey in 2000

The New York Agricultural Statistics Service plans to survey the New York equine industry this year, reports Stephen Ropel, State Statistician. The equine industry has changed substantially since the last survey in 1988, according to industry leaders. The **2000 Equine Survey** will document changes and provide information to help measure the contribution of horses, ponies, mules and donkeys to New York agriculture.

The 2000 survey will collect information on the number of animals by breed, use, location and type of operation. Sections are included to pick up acreage devoted to equine use, employment and economic data from horse owners about value, expenses and investment associated with maintaining horses.

Data collection will begin in late summer to early fall and will be done in several steps. The first stage will be a mail survey to over 20,000 places identified as having equine. Follow-up mailings and telephone calls will be made to encourage response. A sample of land segments around the state will also be surveyed to account for incompleteness of that initial list. A second survey, a subsample of respondents from stage one will receive a detailed questionnaire that will collect assets, value and expense data.

Results of the survey will be tabulated this fall and a publication is planned for early 2001. This survey is supported by equine and farm organizations throughout New York. Primary funding comes from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

For additional information visit the Ag Statistics website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny and click the **2000** Equine Survey button, call (800)821-1276 or send an e-mail to 'nass-ny@nass.usda.gov'.